



King County

Community Services Division

**Department of
Community and Human Services**

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**Regional Human Services and Veterans Citizen Levy
Joint Oversight Board
Meeting Summary
April 25, 2013 2-4 p.m.
Nyer Urness House, Seattle, WA**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Loran Lichty at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board (RHSLOB) Members Present:
Kathy Brasch, Loran Lichty (Chair), Edith Loyer Nelson, David Ramsay (Vice-chair),
Kate Slaminko

RHSLOB Members Excused/Absent: Kathleen Hadaller

Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB) Members Present: Stan Gunno
Doug Hoople (Vice-chair), Francisco Ivarra (Chair), Kathy Lewis, Mary Kay Lewis, John
Pruitt, Robert Stephens, Jr., Ray Tomlinson, Bill Wood

VCLOB Members Excused/Absent: Curtis Thompson, Oren Hadaller

King County Staff Present: Joel Estey, Department of Community and Human
Services (DCHS); Laird Heia, DCHS; Marcy Kubbs, DCHS; Andrea LaFazia-Geraghty,
Mental Health Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division.

Guests: Gary Haines, Bonnie Sanders, Marilyn Cooks

Review of Joint Meeting Summary

The meeting summary of the February 28, 2013 Joint Board meeting was approved as written.

Implementation Plan Review - 2.2 Capital Funds for Permanent Housing

John DeChadenedes, Coordinator for the King County Community Services Division (CSD) Housing Finance Program provided an update to the board on the capital projects for permanent housing that were awarded Levy funds. From the beginning of the levy through April 2013 Levy funding along with other fund sources has helped support the development of over 900 units of affordable housing in King County. Staff has calculated that each dollar of Levy funding has leveraged about sixteen dollars of other funding from other entities.



Discussion

The board asked questions about the Veterans and Human Services Levy funded projects including the following:

- Can we receive information on the number of veterans housed in the levy supported housing? In response staff indicated they would research this. Data may be available from the Client Care Coordination and MIDD client databases.
- What can be done to get more housing for veterans in South County?

Levy Administration staff will provide feedback to these questions at the next board meeting.

Implementation Plan Review - 2.3 Housing Stability Program

Scott Mingus, King County Program Manager for the Housing Stability Program (HSP) provided an update on this program. He shared that HSP provides emergency financial assistance for rent or mortgage in response to short-term crises, allowing low-income residents to remain in their housing. The program covers payment of rent or mortgage (including all back rent), fees associated with late rent or mortgage payment, and/or move-in deposits or other expenses related to a move into permanent housing. As part of the process, each client completes a comprehensive assessment, household budget and a household action plan to help prevent crises from occurring in the future, in addition to receiving financial assistance.

The program is implemented through a subcontract with Solid Ground Washington, a central administrative agency, which subcontracts with other service provider agencies located in North, East and South County, as well as the Crisis Clinic. The Crisis Clinic, that operates the 2-1-1 Community Information Line, screens clients for eligibility, schedules appointments, and as needed, provides other information and referrals. Levy funds account for 65% of the overall program funding, along with a mix of federal funds. Levy funding has allowed the program to significantly increase in scale.

Discussion

In response to questions, Scott provided the following additional information:

- HSP provides primarily financial assistance.
- The Crisis Clinic's 2-1-1 Community Information Line, also funded by the levy, is the front door to services for the program.
- Data on the racial/ethnic breakdown of HSP clients served will provide at the next board meeting.

Regional Veterans Initiative Update

Andrea LaFazia-Geraghty provided an update on the work of the Regional Veterans Initiative (RVI). To date, two meetings of the Special Advisors have been held. The initial step for the RVI is to map the current landscape of services available to King County's veterans. The ultimate goal is to improve coordination among those resources available. Determining what gaps in service may exist will be undertaken at a later time. Please contact Andrea LaFazia-Geraghty (andrea.lafazia@kingcounty.gov) or Pat Lemus (Pat.Lemus@kingcounty.gov) if you have any questions or comments. Also, please visit the [RVI website](http://www.kingcounty.gov/socialservices/veterans/Regional%20Veterans%20Initiative.aspx) for more information (<http://www.kingcounty.gov/socialservices/veterans/Regional%20Veterans%20Initiative.aspx>).

Nyer Urness House Facility Tour – Beth Boram/Kim Sather

Nyer Urness House graciously provided a meeting space and facility tour. Compass Housing Alliance's Nyer Urness House, partially funded by the Veterans Levy and the Human Services Levy, provides formerly homeless men and women with safe and comfortable permanent housing. Located at 1753 NW 56th Street in Ballard, the new facility houses 80 chronically homeless individuals including some with very high medical needs, in studio style apartments. Nine units are set aside for veterans with medical disability.

The building also has a community room, a roof top garden, and 24 hour on-site support from social workers. The facility will coordinate with a NeighborCare health clinic that will be housed in the building along with the REACH program and the Sobering Center - two other levy funded programs.

2012 Unspent Funds Discussion

Marcy Kubbs, Levy Administration Coordinator provided the board with an update on the amount of 2012 Levy unspent funds. A total of \$326,902 in Veterans Levy and \$95,317 in Human Services Levy funding is available for reprogramming. At the May board meeting, time will be allocated on the agenda for a larger discussion on this topic.

Homeless Youth/Young Adult Coordinated Engagement

Cheryl Markham, Manager, CSD Housing and Community Development Programs (HCD) provided the board members with information on the Homeless Youth/Young Adult (YYA) Initiative, specifically on the Coordinated Engagement component. The Homeless Youth and Young Adult Initiative is King County's community-wide response to prevent and end homelessness among young people. The Initiative is led by the Committee to End Homelessness, advised by agency and government leaders, supported by private philanthropy and the public sector, with input from homeless and formerly homeless young people. Coordinated Engagement (CE) will direct young people's access to housing by coordinating their applications, applying a common strengths-based assessment, and placing them in programs that have been helpful to other youth and young adults. The CE will provide:

- Clearly defined process for YYA's to request housing
- Coordinated housing placements
- Unduplicated data on the number of homeless YYA's and their needs
- Alignment with the existing Family Housing Connection coordinated entry system
- Incorporation of best and/or promising practices in YYA housing

About twenty percent of the funding for the Initiative is from public funders with the balance from a variety of private funders. The 2012 unspent Human Services Levy dollars are a potential source to help fund the start-up of this project.

Discussion

Following the presentation, the following questions and comments were provided:

- It would be useful to have data on the number of YYA from veterans' families
- YYA includes individuals up to 25 years age, a determination based on developmental data that is also consistent with health care reform.

Staff Report

Marcy provided board members with the Housing Repair program brochures and explained that of the \$2.3 million allocated to capital housing in the Supplemental Budget Ordinance, there did not appear to be a need to add funding to this program.

Discussion

Board members clarified their intent was to explore whether some of the supplemental funds could be made available to private homeowners to assist with renovations if they agreed to house veterans. Staff will research this issue further.

Old Business

- Board members would like continued updates on the status of unspent funds.
- The VCLOB board member absence issue needs to be addressed.

VCLOB Chair Highlights – Francisco Ivarra

The VCLOB held a combined meeting with the King County Veterans Advisory Board in March at WorkSource Renton. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Learn about the Regional Veterans Initiative and participate in a focus group
- Receiving a briefing on the report “The Status of Veterans in King County”
- Receive a briefing from Jackie MacLean, DCHS Director, on the County’s work with Health Care Reform.

RHSLOB Chair Report – Loran Lichty

The RHSLOB met in March. Board members were briefed on the Cultural Navigator program by Stephen Lam with the Chinese Information and Service Center. This program helps low-income residents who face cultural or language barriers access the services they need by providing a liaison from the client’s background to serve as a broker. Thanks to the Levy the program was able to expand to south King County.

Health Care Reform

Jackie MacLean, Director, Department of Community and Human Services shared the work the Department is doing related to Council’s Motion 13768, developing a plan for an accountable and integrated system of health, human services and community-based prevention in King County; and the Budget Proviso that calls for an assessment and implementation plans for the integration of the Department of Community and Human Services and Public Health-Seattle & King County. She also discussed the challenges of identifying those in King County who are currently uninsured to help them enroll in a health plan under Health Care Reform. The board asked questions and shared their thoughts on the work being done.

Public comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.